

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

STATE OF FLORIDA,

CASE NO.:

Plaintiff,

DIVISION:

vs.

OSWP NO.:

LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT

Defendant.

_____ /

CRIMINAL AFFIDAVIT TO ARREST

Personally appeared Law Enforcement Investigator Neil K. Kailimai, who being duly sworn says:

Your Affiant, Neil K Kailimai, is a duly sworn Law Enforcement Investigator for the Office of the Attorney General Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for the State of Florida. Your Affiant states that beginning on or about June 1, 2004 and continuing through about October 5, 2004, LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT did commit the offense of Medicaid Fraud, to wit: she did unlawfully commit Medicaid Provider Fraud in violation of § 409.920(2)(a), Fla. Stat., by knowingly making or causing to be made false statements or representations of material facts in claims submitted to the Medicaid fiscal agent for payment. Specifically she prepared and submitted or caused to be submitted documents for payment, representing services neither she nor any member of her staff provided.

The Medicaid program is 100% jointly funded by both the federal and state governments. The program is administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). A private corporation under contract with the AHCA acts as the fiscal intermediary and is authorized to receive and process Medicaid

claims. The intermediary assigns each enrolled provider a Medicaid provider number to use for billing purposes. AHCA records reveal that the above-named defendant, LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT, using business name "Laura's Care and Services, Inc. is enrolled as Medicaid provider # _____, that number causes reimbursement requests to be submitted to the fiscal intermediary.

Your affiant became involved in this investigation after the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration received a complaint from Kathy A. Brannen. Ms. Brannen said she was the sister of a deceased Medicaid recipient and claimed that LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT, in her capacity as president and owner of Laura's Care and Services, Inc., billed the Florida Medicaid system for services she did not provide. The complainant Ms. Brannen and her sister said they witnessed the incidents, after learning their brother's medical condition was terminal and coming to Seffner (Hillsborough County) to live with him, until his death. The witnesses said LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT's company was being contracted by the Florida Medicaid program to provide adult waiver care services to their deceased brother, T. A. The witnesses also provided sworn statements and note books containing detailed handwritten notes which document times and dates care was given to their deceased brother.

Your affiant compared the handwritten notes to Medicaid billing records pertaining to the services LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT claims to have provided to the deceased recipient. Your affiant found several discrepancies between the records. Your affiant calculated the difference between the billed amounts and the services the witnesses say were provided. The difference is approximately \$ 22, 062.09.

Your affiant identified Tonya Michelle Gamber as one of the primary care givers, who is purported to have provided services to the deceased Medicaid recipient. Witness Gamber denied providing all the services claimed in the Medicaid billings submitted by LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT. She also denied

attending HIV/AIDS training LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT used to qualify her under Medicaid rules. Witness Gamber provided her own copies of the training certificate and some of her time records which dispute the Medicaid billings submitted by LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT. Witness Gamber said she made copies of the records before discontinuing her employment with LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT. The Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities has no record of the training.

Some of the time records submitted by witness Gamber appear to contain her handwriting and the handwriting of LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT. In some instances your affiant found that the documents appear to have been altered. In other instances, your affiant found duplicate records, which appear to be falsified time sheets for services that were not provided to the deceased Medicaid recipient. The records appear to have been created to support LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT's Medicaid billing submissions.

During an interview, LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT denied the allegations and claimed the witnesses were being untruthful. She added that she paid the deceased recipient's sister, to care for him when neither she nor one of her employees could be present. She then billed Medicaid for services provided by the sister. The deceased recipient's sister was never an employee of LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT, nor was she ever a Medicaid qualified care giver. The witness and sister of the deceased recipient confirmed that she had been given two checks and was asked to endorse them. One check was for \$45.00 which she endorsed and returned to LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT. The second check was for \$500.00, which she also endorsed. In that instance LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT gave the witness \$ 500.00 and said, "this is for the time you have put in caring for T." According to the witness, she never received any other payments from LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT.

Your affiant's investigation revealed and determined that Laura's Care and Services, Inc., under

Medicaid Provider No. _____, was paid a total of \$ 24, 491.12 in U.S. currency
for services allegedly provided to deceased Medicaid recipient, T. A. (Medicaid
recipient no. _____), by LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT, between June 1, 2004 and October
5, 2005.

Wherefore, your Affiant believes there is probable cause to arrest LAURA TIETZ
PERREAULT for Medicaid Provider Fraud in violation of § 409.920(2)(a), Fla. Stat. and
respectfully requests this Honorable Court to issue a capias for the arrest of LAURA TIETZ
PERREAULT, so that she may be made to answer to the charges.

Law enforcement Investigator II Neil K Kailimai

THE AFOREMENTIONED FACTS SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME IN
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA, this ____ day of March, 2006.

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

_____ have reviewed this affidavit and do find there is / is not
probable cause to hold and bind over for trial the defendant named in this affidavit.

**THE CLERK OF COURT IS HEREBY DIRECTED TO ISSUE CAPIAS FOR THE
ARREST OF DEFENDANT, LAURA TIETZ PERREAULT. DEFENDANT IS TO BE
ADMITTED TO BAIL IN THE SUM OF \$ _____ INCLUDING SURCHARGE
FOR ORGANIZED FRAUD.**

Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit
Hillsborough County, Florida

Date